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Date: 2/10/2014

GAIN Report Number: PL1404

Poland

Post: Warsaw

Release of US Shipment of Almonds Valued at USD 220000

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

Tree Nuts

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Report Highlights:

In January 2014, FAS Warsaw successfully advocated the release of two shipments of U.S. almonds from the State of California detained at the Port of Gdynia on the Baltic Sea. The combined shipment value was estimated at USD 220,000. The Polish Gdynia Port Authorities detained the shipments due to a discrepancy in the signature on the VASP certificates, which became invalid due to personnel changes.

General Information:

In January 2014, FAS Warsaw was notified that two shipments of U.S. almonds were detained by Gdynia Port Authorities due to discrepancy with the signature on the VASP certificate against the existing official authorized certifiers list.

FAS Warsaw intervened immediately, interacting with the Polish importer, as the Polish Port Sanitary Authorities in Gdynia, and the Almond Board of California VASP specialists to address the issue. FAS Warsaw worked with the Polish importer to initiate local testing for aflatoxin in lieu of valid VASP certificate while simultaneously initiating the process to issue replacement certificates complying with the updated VASP certifiers list. Post was able to apply knowledge gained about the VASP program from previously detained shipments to reach quicker resolution of the problem.

One shipment was released based on the ‘negative’ result for aflatoxin, while the other was released based on the updated list of approved VASP certifiers provided by the Almond Board of California submitted to the Polish Port Authorities.

Poland is a key European market for U.S. almonds thus maintaining the integrity of the VASP certification program is of great importance for protecting the commodity’s continued access.

Annually Poland imports raw and processed U.S. almonds valued in excess of USD 30 million with USD 10 million typically sourced via Spain and USD 8 million directly from the United States. The balances of Poland’s imports originate from various suppliers including the United States via transshipments through The Netherlands and Germany.